OVERVIEW

• Introduction to the Office of National Scholarships
  • Why attempt to obtain funding?
  • How to find funding sources
  • Strategies for successful grant writing
WHY PURSUE EXTERNAL FUNDING?

Necessity – funding required to complete thesis/dissertation project
Time – release from teaching; devote time to writing
Augmentation – funding to expand project
Career Development – pursuit of funding part of being in an academic/professional
WHAT FUNDING IS AVAILABLE?

- Large Government Grants? Not so much – most are for PhD holders
- Dissertation Support Grants and Fellowships
- Archival Research
- Travel Funding
- Post-docs
SEARCHING FOR FUNDING SOURCES

LATITUDINAL

Ranges from national/federal level to more specific societies

LONGITUDINAL

Ranges from grants to cover graduate education to a specific aspect of a project
FINDING SOURCES

http://www.research.usf.edu/fundingOpp.asp
The USF Office of Sponsored Research – two databases, ISIS and COS, which allow users to search thousands of grant and fellowship programs related to their areas of research.

http://www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/grapes/search.asp
UCLA hosts GRAPES, an easy-to-use fellowship finding tool for graduate students. Use the “Advanced Search” feature to find fellowships intended for students at the dissertation stage.

H-net.org lists fellowship opportunities in the humanities. Check the “Announcements” page, search the database, and/or sign up for email discussion lists.
FINDING SOURCES, CONTINUED

Chronicle of Higher Education
The Chronicle of Higher Education website contains current job listings and grant competition announcements. Institutions offering postdoctoral and dissertation/teaching fellowships often use the Chronicle to disseminate information nation-wide.

MLA Newsletter (or your main discipline-specific professional organization)

The North American Conference on British Studies maintains an exhaustive listing of research grant and dissertation fellowship programs:
http://www.nacbs.org/funding.html
HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT

PHASE #1 – INITIAL PREPARATIONS
   Read the instructions for the specific grant and FOLLOW THEM
   Determine the audience

PHASE #2 – (Sciences) DEVELOPING ‘CENTRAL’ ARGUMENT
   What is the hypothesis/research questions to be addressed?
      Importance of ‘multiple working hypotheses’
   Where does this ‘fit’ in the broader field?
   What specifically will this research add?
HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT

PHASE # 2 (Humanities focus)

Outline a problem or question your research will solve or answer.
Argue for the vital significance of your research (the big “so what” question)
Clearly identify your objectives and goals, not just of the larger project but of the smaller piece of research funded by the grant
Establish the relevance to the funding program
HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT (CONT.)

PHASE #3 – TESTING THE QUESTION

Outline techniques to be used to answer question
Justify those techniques

OR,

PHASE #3 – METHODOLOGY

Explain clearly your approach to finding a solution or answer,
AND explain what is fresh or unique in this approach (and why YOU must do it)
HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT (CONT.)

PHASE #4 – DEVELOPING A BUDGET

What costs are required?

Be specific! Be realistic!

Justification

PHASE #5 – REVISION

Have others read your proposal and give you feedback

Tighten your prose

Proofread!!!
HOW TO WRITE A SUCCESSFUL GRANT (CONT.)

PHASE #6 – LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION/SUPPORT
   Who to choose?
   Keeping your recommenders informed

PHASE #7 – POST-AWARD CONDUCT
   Changes in project?
   Follow-up report
SAMPLE OF MAJOR DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIPS:

Woodrow Wilson Doctoral Dissertation in Women’s Studies
Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowships
The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR)
Ford Foundation Fellowships
American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) Mellon Dissertation Completion Fellowships
Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/ACLS Early Career Fellowship Program
National Science Foundation
Ford Foundation Fellowship Program